United Nations S/2003/1071

Security Council

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6 November 2003

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Letter dated 5 November 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 1408 (2002), in which the Council requested me to report every six months on whether Liberia has complied with paragraph 2 of resolution 1343 (2001), which demands that the Government of Liberia immediately cease its support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and for other armed rebel groups in the region, and take the following concrete steps to that end:

(a) Expel all RUF members from Liberia and prohibit all RUF activities on its territory;

(b) Cease all financial and, in accordance with resolution 1171 (1998), military support to RUF, including all transfer of arms and ammunition, all military training and the provision of logistical and communications support, and take steps to ensure that no such support is provided from the territory of Liberia or by its nationals;

(c) Cease all direct or indirect import of Sierra Leone rough diamonds which are not controlled through the certificate of origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone, in accordance with resolution 1306 (2000);

(d) Freeze funds or financial resources or assets that are made available by its nationals or within its territory directly or indirectly for the benefit of RUF or entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly by RUF.

As you will recall, my previous report pursuant to Security Council resolution 1408 (2002) was issued on 22 April 2003 (S/2003/466). However, because of the prevailing situation in the country, which necessitated the evacuation of United Nations personnel, it was not possible to gather the information needed to prepare the report for the subsequent six-month cycle.

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Furthermore, in the light of the ongoing deployment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and considering that the formation of the National Transitional Government of Liberia is still in the early stages, it will be necessary to defer the submission of that report until early 2004, in order to allow UNMIL and the National Transitional Government ample time to gather the requisite information and to conduct an assessment of the new circumstances on the ground, with a view to providing inputs that would enable me to prepare the report.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

United Nations S/2003/1072

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement from the Head of the Auditing Bureau and Governor of the Islamic Development Bank in Palestine addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. The statement makes clear that the total losses and damage inflicted on the Palestinian people by the Israeli hostilities during the past three years have amounted to 17,262,500 United States dollars.

I should be grateful if you would be so kind as to bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to have them distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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Annex to the letter dated 4 November 2003 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Subject: Damage suffered by the Palestinian people

I wish to convey to you my sincere thanks and appreciation concerning the noble and courageous stand you have taken with respect to the Palestinian people in their just cause in struggling against the Israeli occupation.

You are well aware of the tragic situation being faced by the Palestinian people in terms of killing, destruction and displacement and the obliteration of everything that is Palestinian, giving rise to a deteriorating situation and the daily infliction of heavy casualties.

The casualties and damage inflicted by the Israeli enemy on the Palestinian people during the past three years have totalled 17,262,500 United States dollars. Most sources of figures agree on the grievous nature of these losses, even though there are certain disparities resulting from accounting periods with differing start and end dates and, in some cases, the use of estimated figures. The damage is not definitive because the acts of bombing, bulldozing and destruction continue on a daily basis. There is also the difficulty of inventorying and assessing damage on account of the prevailing circumstances such as the ban on travel and the transport difficulty in most of the West Bank, together with the partition of the Gaza Strip into four areas.

We hope that you will be so kind as to urge the Arab States to continue to assist the Palestinian people to stand firm in their heroic struggle to preserve their identity and their homeland pending the adoption of a comprehensive Arab project to repair the destruction that has been inflicted on them.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Jarar Numan **Al-Kudwa**
Head, Auditing Bureau
Governor of the Islamic Development Bank in Palestine

Total losses of the Palestinian economy after three years of Israeli aggression

Item	*Daily losses*	*Losses to national resources*	*Consequential losses*	*Losses due to lost opportunity*	*Long-term losses*	*Total*
Trade	0.870	N/A	N/A	917.200	0.000	1 179.930
Industry	1.364	48.000	133.558	30.600	223.400	1 651.276
Agriculture, fishery resources and livestock	0.470	329.080	61.080	203.720	0.046	794.690
Total losses of production sectors		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**3 625.896**
Service sectors						
Tourism	0.220	120.000	0.000	36.780	114.752	368.746
Internal transport	0.560	14.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	600.040
Environment	0.011	0.000	0.000	10.600	126.000	79.949
Stock exchange	0.020	0.000	0.000	5.040	0.000	23.700
Communications	0.100	7.880	0.000	6.660	0.000	113.170
Total losses of service sectors		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**1 185.605**
Other main items of gross domestic product						
Real estate, rental and commercial activities	**0.170**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**184.030**
Activities of community, public and individual services	0.050	#VALUE!	2.288	0.000	0.000	53.906
Education	0.350	6.000	25.200	0.000	0.000	386.250
Health	0.206	2.900	160.881	0.000	0.000	283.814
Family income	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.590
Public sectors (Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Prisoners and Detainees)	0.300	20.000	28.721	0.000	0.000	344.200
Governmental projects (Note 2)	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	328.290
[Illegible] intermediary services provided indirectly	-0.260	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-275.340

Item	*Daily losses*	*Losses to national resources*	*Consequential losses*	*Losses due to lost opportunity*	*Long-term losses*	*Total*
Net value added tax on imports	0.680	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	720.120
Other taxes on imports	0.650	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	688.350
Total losses under other items of GDP		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**2 724.210**
Losses of essential ministries						
Ministry of Food Supplies	0.000	1.000	16.430	0.000	0.000	8.715
Ministry of Justice	0.000	1.000	45.595	6.000	0.000	22.550
Water Authority	0.000	0.800	9.136	408.700	0.000	209.318
Ministry of Local and Municipal Government	0.000	#VALUE!	59.030	0.000	0.000	25.000
Ministry of Youth and Sport	0.000	1.462	0.000	2.026	0.000	1.744
Ministry of Internal Affairs	0.010	0.900	0.673	15.760	0.000	19.201
Total losses of essential ministries		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**286.528**
Installations, housing and investment sector						
Installations and housing	1.044	152.000	12.000	#VALUE!	0.000	1 187.596
Israeli workers	4.000	0.000	0.000	31.160	0.000	4 251.580
Investment	0.000	0.000	104.000	557.200	69.000	365.100
Industrial estates	0.000	0.000	124.459	557.200	69.000	365.100
Total losses of installations sector		**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**6 169.376**
Strategic projects sector						
Port project	0.000	9.020	15.936	45.600	480.000	275.278
Airport and civil aviation authority project	0.050	36.000	0.000	145.000	44.000	165.450
Palestinian mills project	0	0.580	1.480	0.500	0.000	-1.780

Item	*Daily losses*	*Losses to national resources*	*Consequential losses*	*Losses due to lost opportunity*	*Long-term losses*	*Total*
Electric power authority and power station project	0.000	5.600	16.970	69.100	0.000	44.440
Total losses of the strategic projects sector						**486.943**
Grand total	**11.170**	**705.222**	**873.094**	**2 656.846**	**1 126.192**	**17 262.515**
Grand total of daily losses	**11 836.561**					

United Nations S/2003/1073

Security Council

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11 November 2003

Original: English

Identical letters dated 4 November 2003 from the representatives of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We, the undersigned Permanent Representatives and Chargé d'affaires a.i., present our compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the President of the Security Council and, with reference to the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Iraq's neighbouring countries held in Damascus on 1 and 2 November 2003, have the honour to transmit the text of the final statement (see annex).

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboul Gheit**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid **Al-Hussein**
Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mansour Ayyad **Al-Otaibi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
to the United Nations

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(*Signed*) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 November 2003 from the representatives of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic and English]

Final Statement of the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq

Damascus, 2 November 2003

In response to the invitation extended by the Syrian Arab Republic to hold a meeting for the neighbouring countries of Iraq with the objective of discussing the current developments in Iraq and their repercussions at regional and international levels, the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Turkey, the State of Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic held a meeting in Damascus on 7 Ramadan A.H. 1424 corresponding to 2 November 2003. The Ministers extended an invitation to the interim Iraqi Foreign Minister to attend the meeting but they did not receive a response; however, they expressed their hope that a representative of Iraq could attend their forthcoming meetings.

The Ministers recalled their previous meetings held in Istanbul on 23 January 2003, in Riyadh on 18 April 2003, and in Tehran on 28 May 2003, and discussed the current situation in Iraq as a contribution to the objective of enhancing the unity and independence of Iraq and its sovereignty over its territories and natural resources as recognized by the Security Council in resolution 1511 (2003). Pursuant to their deliberations, the Ministers agreed on:

1. Expressing their sympathy and full solidarity with the Iraqi people in regard to the ordeal they suffer due to the serious deterioration of the security, as well as the economic and living conditions.

2. Rejecting any measure that may lead to the disintegration of Iraq, the Ministers reiterated their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political unity of Iraq, and their commitment to the principle of non-interference in its domestic affairs, and called upon all others to do the same.

3. Emphasizing the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their political future, the importance of enhancing the United Nations vital role in Iraq, especially in regard to supervising the drafting of a constitution, carrying out elections and setting up a timetable to accelerate the transfer of authority to the Iraqis and end the occupation, so as to enable them to regain their rights and sovereignty over their territories.

4. Supporting the efforts of the Transitional Governing Council in carrying out its transitional responsibilities until the formation of an elected and fully representative Iraqi government that fulfils the aspirations and interests of the Iraqi people, and ensures equality for all the citizens of a united Iraq.

5. Reiterating the responsibilities of the occupying authority in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions and international law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, with regard to the responsibilities of the occupying forces to maintain security and stability in Iraq, and rejecting any accusation against their countries of interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq.

6. Condemning the terrorist bombings that target civilians, humanitarian and religious institutions, embassies and international organizations working in Iraq, and stressing the necessity to identify their perpetrators and to hold them accountable for their crimes.

7. Expressing their concern about the existence of terrorist groups in Iraq and the threat that any other armed groups in Iraq represent for neighbouring countries, the Ministers called upon the responsible Iraqi authorities to cooperate with their countries to eliminate this danger against the neighbouring countries and prevent any violation of the borders.

8. Bearing in mind the negative impact of instability and lack of well-being of the Iraqi people on their national interests, the Ministers decided to call on their representatives at the United Nations to collectively follow up their interaction with the United Nations role in Iraq.

The Ministers expressed their thanks to the Syrian Arab Republic for holding this consultative meeting in Damascus, and their appreciation for meeting with H.E. President Bashar Al-Assad and for his views. They expressed their solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic regarding Israel exploiting the regional developments in its aggression against the Syrian territories. They also agreed that the meetings, initiated by Iraq's neighbouring countries, are worthy of support and continuation to strengthen those objectives in the future. The Ministers, therefore, decided to hold further meetings until Iraq completely restores its sovereignty, security, stability and ordinary life. They also welcomed the invitation of the State of Kuwait to host the next meeting.

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Security Council

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Report of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan, 31 October to 7 November 2003

I. Executive summary

1. The Security Council mission to Afghanistan took place at a critical juncture in the Bonn process. It coincided with the release of the draft constitution, which provided the first opportunity to solicit the opinions of Afghans on the constitutional process. The mission was greatly welcomed and appreciated by all Afghan interlocutors. Its members felt that, despite ethnic divisions and factional fighting, there did not appear to be any separatist tendencies in Afghanistan. The eagerness expressed by the Afghan interlocutors to improve their living conditions greatly impressed the mission. At the same time, increasing frustration about the lack of a peace dividend and tangible benefits was voiced.

2. The Afghan Government, with the support of the international community, has made significant progress in implementing the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (Bonn Agreement; see S/2001/1154) and recovering from the devastation caused by over two decades of war. The mission noted that strides had been made in many areas, including the successful launch of a new national currency, the ongoing reconstruction of roads, the reopening of schools, progress in the reform of the security sector, the start of a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration campaign, the preparations for the Constitutional Loya Jirga and the release of a draft constitution.

3. Notwithstanding those gains, major challenges lie ahead and much remains to be done if the peace process is to become irreversible and security in Afghanistan realized. Insecurity caused by terrorist activities, factional fights and drug-related crime remains the major concern of the Afghans today. The south and south-east were highlighted by all interlocutors in this regard, where insecurity, including attacks against non-governmental organizations (NGOs), was contributing to a slowing of reconstruction. The threats faced by the region limited access of government and development agencies. This, in turn, increases the risk that the population could become disenchanted and be left out of the peace process. While the Afghan government representatives were rather optimistic regarding the expansion of central authority in all provinces, representatives of NGOs expressed their concerns about the challenges faced in tackling insecurity, violations of human rights, impunity, corruption and the increasing trend in the production and

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trafficking of drugs. According to them, the existing gap between the expectations of the Afghan people and the funds provided by the international community could jeopardize the political process.

4. In too many areas, individuals and communities suffer from abuses of their basic rights by local commanders and factional leaders. The mission heard vehement complaints by women's organizations and civil society groups regarding intimidation, harassment and exclusion from social, economic and political activities. Judicial institutions remain weak, and the narcotic economy is largely unchecked. Insecurity from factional armies and extremist activities continue to destabilize many areas.

5. Such insecurity also poses a direct challenge to the full implementation of the Bonn Agreement, as it constricts the political space necessary for national political processes and blocks access to many areas, threatening to disenfranchise parts of the population, notably in majority Pashtun areas.

6. Although some progress had been made in reconstruction and economic stabilization, the pace remained slow, and gains were increasingly under threat from factional forces, terrorism and the rapid growth of drug trafficking, which increasingly threatened to subsume the legal economy. The mission was informed that farmers had gains between 4 and 20 times higher with illicit crops than with traditional crops. If Afghanistan is to achieve a basic level of self-sufficiency in the medium term, a greater infusion of donor assistance would be required in the near term. Not addressing the consequences of drug trafficking, instability and the terrorist networks would potentially cost far more in the medium to longer term.

7. Successfully addressing the above-mentioned challenges will ultimately depend upon the further expansion of the authority of the central Government to ensure its control of all armed forces and weapons as well as national revenues, and the establishment of representative and effective national institutions responsible for ensuring justice and security.

8. The recent expansion of the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was unanimously welcomed by the Afghans. However, they considered the envisioned deployment of a German provincial reconstruction team to Kunduz insufficient and called for the deployment of ISAF contingents throughout Afghanistan. They emphasized that strong support of international forces was necessary to provide an enabling environment for the Bonn process so as to build up the national army and police and to extend central government authority to the provinces. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lakhdar Brahimi, shared this view. The mission welcomes the enhanced coordination between the Government, ISAF and the coalition forces.

9. The achievement of peace and security in Afghanistan will also depend upon the continued and coordinated political and financial support of Afghanistan by the international community.

II. Recommendations

10. **The mission reminds all parties that have made a commitment to participate in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process that, in accordance with a presidential decree, the new national army, national police**

and border police are to be responsible for security and law and order in Afghanistan. All other armed units are to be dissolved. As a first step towards dissolution, the mission recommends, in accordance with annex I to the Bonn Agreement, that all factional forces be withdrawn from Kabul as a matter of urgency.

11. **Given the importance of building up Afghan capacity in the security sector, the mission draws the attention of the international community to the need for enhanced assistance activities in this area, in particular regarding the accelerated training and further deployment of the national police and Afghan national army, and to urgently commit further funds to the Law and Order Trust Fund.**

12. **The mission urges the Afghan Transitional Administration to take all possible measures to strengthen national unity and reconciliation and to ensure broad and universal participation in the peace process, in particular with regard to the role of women. As a concrete measure, the mission recommends that the Administration follow through with the reform of the Ministry of Defence that was recently launched. Such a reform process should be extended to other key institutions.**

13. **The mission recognized the difficulty of organizing general elections: insecurity and the risks of disenfranchising a large segment of the population from the political process. It stressed the importance of tackling these issues so that the elections could be held within the time frame provided in the Bonn Agreement. In this regard, the mission noted the transitional provisions of the draft constitution, in particular the definition of a transitional period contained in it, which would include presidential elections followed by parliamentary elections as soon as possible.**

14. **In order to ensure the necessary financial support and political momentum for peace and stability in Afghanistan, the mission noted with interest the wish of the Afghan president to convene a follow-up conference to the Bonn process early next year, following the conclusion of the Constitutional Loya Jirga. The mission invites the Secretary-General to study the possibilities for such a conference.**

15. **The mission calls upon all the neighbours of Afghanistan to fully implement the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002 (S/2002/1416, annex) and to redouble their efforts, in particular within the framework of the tripartite commission, to help preserve peace and security in Afghanistan, especially in the southern and south-eastern areas.**

16. **In order to strengthen the central Government and the basic institutions of the State, the mission recommends that the Afghan Transitional Administration initiate a process of national reconciliation directed to all Afghans willing to help rebuild the country irrespective of past events.**

III. Mission statement

17. By his letter dated 1 October 2003 (S/2003/930), the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had decided to send a mission to Afghanistan. The mission was conducted from 31

October to 7 November 2003. The terms of reference, composition and programme of the mission are annexed to the present report (see annexes I and II).

18. The mission left New York on 31 October and visited Afghanistan from 2 to 6 November. Based in the capital, Kabul, the mission travelled to Herat (3 November) and Mazar-i-Sharif (5 November). Although a visit to Kandahar was planned, the prevailing security situation necessitated its cancellation. En route to Kabul, in Islamabad, the mission received a briefing from Fariq Osman Hyder, Additional Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

19. In Afghanistan, the mission held extensive discussions on the implementation of the Bonn Agreement and the implications of Security Council resolution 1510 (2003) with the Afghan Transitional Administration, regional leaders, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), United Nations agencies, ISAF, the coalition forces, the diplomatic community, NGOs and civil society.

20. The primary message of the mission to the Afghan people was that Afghanistan remained high on the agenda of the Security Council and that the international community continued to support the peace process in Afghanistan. To the Afghan Transitional Administration, the mission underscored the Council's support of the Bonn process and expressed its strong interest in the constitutional and electoral processes. To the local and provincial authorities, the mission sent a clear message that it was imperative that they participate in the Bonn process and that they cooperate with the central Government.

IV. Key issues

General security

21. Throughout the visit, security was at the centre of the mission's discussions. The mission clearly saw how the lack of security ("the rule of the gun") affected the entire Afghan peace process. According to Afghan interlocutors, the three main sources of insecurity are terrorism, factional fighting and drug production and trafficking.

Terrorism

22. In the provinces of the south, south-east and east, insecurity is greatly exacerbated by terrorist attacks from suspected members of the Taliban and Al-Qaida, and supporters of Gulbudin Hekmatyar. These elements pose a significant threat to the newly established Afghan National Army and national police forces, to Afghans supportive of the central Government and, increasingly, to the assistance community. These threats have significantly slowed reconstruction by limiting the access of government, international humanitarian and development agencies. This, in turn, increases the risk that the predominately Pashtun population — already frustrated by its relatively low level of representation in the Government — will become marginalized. In this regard, the mission welcomes plans by the coalition forces to deploy pilot provincial reconstruction teams in the south and south-east.

23. Long-term stability for Afghanistan cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the neighbouring States. Many of the Afghan interlocutors

consistently spoke of instability caused by members of the Taliban and Al-Qaida believed to be crossing the border into Afghanistan. However, in briefings, the Additional Foreign Secretary and the Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan assured the mission that Pakistan was doing its utmost to control its border with Afghanistan and emphasized the need for further international assistance in that regard. The establishment of the tripartite commission between Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States of America is welcome, and the mission encourages the commission to increase dialogue among its participants.

Factional fighting

24. In too many areas of the country, the arbitrary control exercised by local commanders and factional armies has resulted in heavy casualties. Last month, the heaviest factional fighting since the start of the Bonn peace process took place in Mazar-i-Sharif. In meetings with provincial officials and factional leaders in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif, the mission emphasized the importance of cooperation between the provinces and the central Government. It also emphasized the need for the respect of human rights and the existence of a civil society. In particular, in the meeting with Ustad Atta Mohammed and General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the mission, in strong terms, underlined the need to implement the reforms outlined for the north. The reforms include: (a) the restructuring of the seventh and eighth corps to combine them into a unified national force; (b) the demilitarization of Mazar-i-Sharif; (c) the collection of heavy weapons; and (d) the appointment of professionals to key positions and the defactionalization of the local administration. For their part, they expressed concern that the constitution would not address their specific needs, in particular regarding the lack of democratic mechanisms for the election of provincial and local authorities. They reiterated to the mission their commitment to fulfil the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which had to be universal and inclusive. They also expressed their concerns on issues related to "power-sharing", appointments to governmental posts and impartiality of central authorities to all factions.

Narcotic drugs

25. Many interlocutors, including President Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Abdullah, listed drug production and trafficking as a major source of instability. Drug production and trafficking feed terrorism, criminality and corruption. Mr. Brahimi underscored that the magnitude of the problem could lead to Afghanistan becoming a narco-state. As described by Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, the production of opium is draining resources from Afghanistan because it results in larger defence, health and economic costs. He urged the international community to provide prosecutable evidence, which would contribute to the isolation of the perpetrators. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is leading international assistance to the Afghan Transitional Administration in the narcotic drugs sector through institution-building, law enforcement, demand reduction and comprehensive measures to promote alternative livelihoods. Representatives of NGOs said that the lack of resources for economic development and the low prices of alternative crops had contributed to the increase in the cultivation of poppies. Senior Transitional Administration officials and NGO

representatives emphasized the need for a comprehensive programme of action to combat drug production and trafficking. Furthermore, they highlighted the need for increased cooperation from neighbouring States in that regard. At the same time, it was clear that there was no single solution that would quickly resolve the issue. Progress in counter-narcotics was not possible without parallel progress in security, reconstruction and extension of the authority of the central Government. Since drugs originating from Afghanistan had a significant impact on end-user markets, there was a need to strengthen drug control efforts beyond Afghanistan, including along the borders. The mission commends the initial efforts made by the Afghan Government in counter-narcotics, and calls for a sustained, coordinated and comprehensive effort to combat drug production and trafficking.

International security assistance

26. The mission reiterates that ultimately it is Afghan security institutions that must assume responsibility for national security. However, until they can be developed there will be a continued need for international forces to provide security. In this regard, all interlocutors warmly welcomed Security Council resolution 1510 (2003) and sought clarity on its implications for security beyond Kabul in the immediate to near future.

27. The mission was impressed by the positive contribution of ISAF to security in Kabul and the role of the provincial reconstruction teams in Mazar-i-Sharif. It looks forward to further contributions of the Force to the Bonn process, in particular in support of the Constitutional Loya Jirga and the electoral process.

28. Representatives of the coalition forces, recognizing that effective counter-terrorism efforts required a comprehensive long-term strategy, outlined their current thinking. The approach would integrate the efforts of the international community and provide a platform for the extension of government structures in areas that were the most insecure (the south and south-east). The coalition intends to deploy a provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar to provide the population with greater confidence in their security, which in turn would improve conditions for reconstruction, the establishment of the Government's administrative structures and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Once the outcome of the pilot phase was assessed and the model refined, the possibility of deploying additional coalition provincial reconstruction teams and creating a "regional development zone" in the south and south-east would be given consideration.

Security sector reform

29. The mission was briefed on initiatives to accelerate security sector reform. Efforts towards the development of the national police (target strength of some 20,000 by June 2004) and military forces (target strength of 70,000 by 2008) received a significant boost this month with the provision of additional assistance from the United States. These initiatives are of particular importance in creating an environment in which the Constitutional Loya Jirga and electoral processes can be conducted successfully (Minister of the Interior Ali Jalali said it was "a race against time"). Their deployment also serves to build public confidence in the law and order structures of the State. Mr. Jalali highlighted the importance of providing regular

funding to the Law and Order Trust Fund, in particular for the salaries of police officers.

30. With the appointment of 22 new senior-level officials, the first step in reforming the Ministry of Defence has been implemented. The Afghan interlocutors and their international partners underscored that while much more was required to transform the Ministry into a truly representative body, this progress allowed the pilot phase of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration exercise to commence in Kunduz. The mission invites the Afghan Transitional Administration to build on those initial measures to complete the reform process and extend it to other key institutions, starting with the Ministry of the Interior and intelligence services, to ensure that they are both broadly representative and professional.

Bonn process

31. The mission was encouraged by the progress made towards achieving peace in Afghanistan and the concurrent efforts towards the development of a State that is sustainable and accountable to the population. To date, the benchmarks of the Bonn peace process have been attained, broadly on schedule. But progress has been neither uniform nor without serious setbacks. Continued security problems, the clearly limited writ of the Government and the absence of the rule of law remain serious obstacles to the successful conclusion of the Bonn process. The failure of armed factions to abide by the specific commitment made in the Bonn Agreement (S/2001/1154, annex I, para. 4), namely to withdraw from Kabul, seriously impinges on the Government's authority — at its very core — and should be remedied without further delay.

32. Afghanistan has now entered the most critical juncture in the peace process — the draft constitution was released on 3 November and preparations for the Constitutional Loya Jirga and the start of the electoral registration exercise are under way. These processes by their nature, even in the best of conditions, bring to the forefront issues that divide society. In Afghanistan, the conditions necessary for a credible national political process are not yet in place: national reconciliation requires greater focus; political parties need time to develop; national institutions must undergo reform; and the power of factional leaders must be diminished. Furthermore, some local commanders continue to ignore the demands of the central Government vis-à-vis appointments of provincial officials and the remittance of customs revenue.

33. The mission, following discussions with the head of the UNAMA Electoral Unit, is of the view that, notwithstanding the substantial efforts made by UNAMA and the Afghan electoral authorities, the ability to undertake registration is made precarious not only by the lack of security, which currently prevents access in particular to significant Pashtun areas, but also by the dearth of voluntary funding on which the project is dependent. The mission learned that for the completion of the registration process, a total of $62 million was required.

34. The draft constitution, which was released during the mission's visit, provides for a transitional arrangement. This provision, if accepted by the Constitutional Loya Jirga, allows a gap (of up to 12 months) between the convening of the presidential and parliamentary elections. Nevertheless, President Karzai expressed concern that such a delay might be construed as an illegitimate attempt to hold onto

power and fuel frustration over the perceived lack of balanced representation in the central Government and its limited authority. Such sentiments could alienate parts of the population, notably in majority Pashtun areas. To avoid the consolidation of the power base of factional leaders, it is important for credible elections to take place as soon as possible after the presidential elections. Mr. Brahimi shared his view with the mission that the Bonn Agreement should be implemented in spirit, but not at any cost.

Reconstruction

35. The mission was encouraged to learn of the progress made in the areas of reconstruction and governance. Significant steps have been taken, including the establishment of a national development framework, the introduction of a new national currency and the ongoing reconstruction of major roads. The Minister of Finance shared his vision for the rapid construction of a road network that would allow Afghanistan to regain its traditional role as a land bridge between South and Central Asia. Such a network would also facilitate the expansion of the central Government's authority into the provinces. Key ministers of the Afghan Transitional Administration underscored the importance of implementing major infrastructural projects, such as a water system, including irrigation and reservoirs, and a gas pipeline network.

36. Furthermore, in a convincing presentation, Finance Minister Ghani outlined his vision for the economic sustainability of Afghanistan. He expressed his hope that in the next five years reforms and structures put in place would yield $500 per capita income and $1.5 billion in domestic revenues. Attaining this goal would require double-digit growth and sustained international assistance. He urged donors to focus their assistance in no more than three sectors.

37. The mission was also very encouraged by initiatives of the Minister of Finance to combat corruption and to implement measures of good governance. He underscored that the return of the highly qualified Afghan diaspora would be desirable. However, a constraining factor was the relatively low pay scales. The work of the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, in particular the efficient refurbishment of his Ministry and the large number of its national programmes, which promotes local empowerment, was also noted with appreciation by the mission.

Human rights and gender issues

38. The mission met with representatives of civil society and of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. Many of the representatives described vividly the general situation in their areas, which was characterized by the pervasive abuse of a broad range of basic human rights. To regional leaders, the mission emphasized the importance of a vibrant civil society and respect for human rights for the stability of Afghanistan.

39. NGO and civil society representatives called for an end to impunity and the establishment of a mechanism for transitional justice and the deployment of human rights monitors. They stressed that it was unacceptable that perpetrators of grave human rights violations in the past continued to hold high public office. However,

senior officials of the Afghan Transitional Administration and other interlocutors suggested that at present Afghanistan was too weak to face the challenges of the past and that the focus should rather be on the establishment of good-governance practices.

40. The mission had an opportunity to exchange views with the Minister for Women's Affairs, Habiba Sohrabi, and received briefings from civil society representatives on gender issues. The rights of women, particularly their active participation in social, political and economic spheres, continued to be seriously hampered by culture, customs and the lack of security. The mission was shocked to learn about the frequent death threats against women's rights activists and that the rate of suicide among women was very high — in the past six months alone there have been more than 40 cases, often as women were reacting in desperation against forced marriages.

41. Civil society representatives underlined the need for women's needs to receive serious and immediate attention. In particular, they were concerned about the present draft of the constitution, which in their view did not provide sufficiently explicit guarantees for women's rights, and they called upon the international community to pay close attention to the matter.

42. Finally, the members of the mission highly commend the tireless efforts and leadership of Mr. Brahimi. They are impressed by the dedication of UNAMA staff, who serve in an extremely challenging and insecure environment. They also express appreciation to the Afghan Transitional Administration and UNAMA for their hospitality during their visit.

Annex I

Terms of reference and composition of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan

Terms of reference

1. The members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to Afghanistan. The visit will take place from 31 October to 7 November 2003. The mission will visit Kabul, Herat, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif.

2. The mission has the following objectives:

- To underscore the international community's unwavering commitment to the peace and reconstruction process in Afghanistan and to promote further international and regional support to this end.
- To review the progress achieved so far and to encourage the Afghan Transitional Administration to further strengthen the implementation of the Bonn Agreement, inter alia, with respect to security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and the election process.
- To observe the operations of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), including its role in assisting the Afghan Transitional Administration in preparing for the elections and in implementing the constitution and in coordinating all United Nations activities.
- To observe the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, to discuss ways to improve the security situation and to expand the authority of the Afghan Transitional Administration throughout the country, and, in this context, to obtain a fuller understanding of the role of the provincial reconstruction teams.
- To review the humanitarian and human rights situation, in particular with regard to women, children, refugees and internally displaced persons, and to assess the status of rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.
- To review the implementation of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002.
- To convey a strong message to regional and factional leaders about the need to reject all violence, condemn extremist, terrorist and illegal drug activities, ensure public order and safety, promote inter-ethnic reconciliation and support the implementation of the Bonn Agreement and fully cooperate with the Afghan Transitional Administration in line with the agreement of 22 May 2003 and UNAMA to these ends.

Composition

Germany (Ambassador Gunter Pleuger, head of mission)

Angola (Counsellor Candido Pereira dos Santos Van-Dunem)

Bulgaria (Ambassador Stefan Tafrov)

Cameroon (Minister Counsellor Mathieu Blaise Banoum)

Chile (Counsellor Armin Andereya)

China (Minister Counsellor Jingye Cheng)

France (Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière)

Guinea (Minister Counsellor Boubacar Diallo)

Mexico (Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser)

Pakistan (Ambassador Masood Khalid)

Russian Federation (Ambassador Gennadi Gatilov)

Spain (Ambassador Inocencio Arias)

Syrian Arab Republic (Counsellor Bassam Sabagh)

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry)

United States of America (Ambassador John D. Negroponte)

Annex II

Programme of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan (31 October-7 November 2003)

Sunday, 2 November

0800	Departure Dubai
1100	Arrival Islamabad
1200	Departure from Islamabad
1510	Arrival Kabul
1520	Press Encounter *(at airport)*
1545-1620	Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by SRSG and Karl Fischer, Senior Advisor/External Relations *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
1630-1930	H.E. President Karzai, Vice Presidents Marshall Mohammad Qassim Fahim, Hydayet Amin Arsala, Mohammad Karim Khalili, and Nematullah Sharani, accompanied by SRSG and interpreter *Presidential Palace*
2000-2130	Light Dinner and Briefing with Lieutenant-General Götz Gliemeroth, Commander ISAF *ISAF HQ*
2130	Departure from ISAF HQ to Accommodation

Monday, 3 November

0615	Departure from Gandamak Lodge to Turkish Embassy
0645	Departure from Turkish Embassy to Airport
0745	Depart Kabul for Herat, accompanied by Karl Fischer, Senior Advisor/External Relations
0900	Arrival in Herat
0945-1045	Deputy Governor of Herat *(will meet delegation at airport and accompany to Governor's Residence)*
1100-1145	Meetings with members of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and civil society representatives *UNAMA Western Regional Office*
1200-1245	Lunch Meeting with UN Agency Heads and NGO representatives *UNAMA Western Regional Office or UNICA Guesthouse*
1245-1345	Advisory Shura *UNAMA Western Regional Office*
1345-1400	General Baz Ahmadi, 4th Army Corps Commander

1415-1430	Press Encounter *(at airport)*
1545	Departure for Kabul
1700	Arrival Kabul
1815-1915	Meeting with SRSG *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1930	Dinner at the German Embassy for Security Council Members
2130	Return to Turkish Embassy

Tuesday, 4 November

0800	Departure from Gandamak to UNAMA
0815	Departure from Turkish Embassy to UNAMA
0830-0930	Dr. Ashraf Ghani, Minister of Finance, accompanied by CoS Margareta Wahlstrom *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
0930-1015	Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1030-1115	Major-General David Barno [p], Office of Military Cooperation — Afghanistan (OMC-A), and David Sedney, US Chargé d'Affaires, accompanied by SRSG *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1115-1215	Ali Ahmed Jalali, Minister of Interior, accompanied by DSRSG Arnault *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1215-1300	Lunch *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1315-1415	General Rahim Wardak, Deputy Defence Minister and General Bismillah Khan, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Defence, accompanied by DSRSG Arnault and interpreter *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1445-1530	Ambassador of Iran to Afghanistan *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1530-1730	Security Sector Briefing, with Italy, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, France, UNAMA Military Advisory Unit, presentation by Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*

Wednesday, 5 November

0615	Departure from Gandamak Lodge to Turkish Embassy
0630	Departure from Turkish Embassy to Airport

0730	Depart Kabul for Mazar-i-Sharif, accompanied by Karl Fischer, Senior Advisor/External Relations
0840	Arrival in Mazar
0900-0930	Engineer Habibullah, Interim Governor of Balkh Province *UNAMA North Regional Office*
0930-1015	UNAMA, UN agencies, and NGOs *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1015-1045	Major Guy Bennett, Chief of Staff, UK Provincial Reconstruction Team *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1045-1130	Usted Atta Mohammad, *Jamiat-i-Islami* and General Abdulrashid Dostum, *Junbesh-i-Milli* *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1130-1200	Sandwich Lunch *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1200-1330	Multiparty Security Commission of the North *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1330-1430	Civil Society Representatives, organized by the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1430-1500	Press Encounter *UNAMA North Regional Office*
1500	Departure to Airport
1530	Departure for Kabul
1700	Arrival in Kabul
1930	Dinner hosted by the SRSG and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
2130	Departure from Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Accommodation

Thursday, 6 November

0730	Departure from Gandamak Lodge to Turkish Embassy
0740	Departure from Turkish Embassy
0800-0900	Mine Detection Dog Training, UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan *Mine Dog Training Centre*
1015-1100	Dr. Hanif Atmar, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, accompanied by CoS Margareta Wahlstrom *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1100-1145	Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson, and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, accompanied by DSRSG Arnault *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*

1145-1345	Roundtable Discussion with Local and International Civil Society Representatives — organized in conjunction with the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghanistan Relief (ACBAR) *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1345-1415	Sandwich lunch with Heads of UN Agencies *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1415-1515	Wrap up with SRSG, Heads of UN Agencies, Reginald Austin (Chief, UNAMA Electoral Component) *UNAMA, Building 6 Conference Room*
1515-1545	Press Conference *UNAMA Building 6, Press Briefing Room*
1600	Departure from UNAMA for Kabul International Airport
1700	Departure for Islamabad
1830	Arrival Islamabad
1900	Departure for Dubai
2200	Arrival Dubai

Friday, 7 November

0930	Depart Dubai
1310	Arrive Munich
1800	Arrive New York